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MR. MAKEHAM'S LETTER IN THE LAST NUMBER OF THE JOURNAL.

To the Editor of the Assurance Magazine.

DEAR SIR,—Your last Number contains a letter from Mr. Makeham on the subject of some remarks made by me at a meeting of the Institute of Actuaries, when his paper "On the solution of general problems in survivorships" was read.

It is difficult to understand Mr. Makeham's object in writing the letter, or what interest the discussion he seems desirous of raising can have for your readers. Certainly, if it were not out of respect for them I should not trouble you with any reply upon the subject.

My statement was, that having had frequent occasion to apply Milne's formulæ for the solution of cases of survivorship among three lives, I had found the common method of approximating, by taking an equivalent single life for two out of the three lives, to give results that came surprisingly near to those obtained by the complete methods.

The remark, which was merely an incidental one, was not urged either in opposition to or in disparagement of anything Mr. Makeham had advanced; and if he doubt the truth of it, he can easily satisfy himself upon the subject by making the requisite calculations.

I am, dear Sir,
Very faithfully yours,

*Campden Hill, w.
6th March, 1865.*

W. B. HODGE.

SUGGESTION AS TO THE COMMUNICATION TO THE JOURNAL OF CASES OF UNUSUAL CHARACTER OR OF DIFFICULT SOLUTION.

To the Editor of the Assurance Magazine.

SIR,—I have often thought that much additional interest would be conferred upon the *Assurance Magazine*, if some of your more experienced supporters would occasionally communicate their opinions upon such cases submitted to them, as may be of unusual character or of more than ordinary difficulty. There can be no doubt that such a course would be of very great advantage to the younger members of our profession; and I think it not improbable that it might have the effect of reducing to some extent those wide divergencies of opinion which at present occasionally occur among actuaries.

With these objects in view I subjoin the particulars of a case recently submitted to myself; and would hope that it may call forth solutions from several of your readers in your next Number; in which case I will state the solution I arrived at myself.

Case.—A freehold estate is settled for life upon persons of the ages 55, 53, 51, 50, 48, in succession; and the survivor of the five is entitled to the reversion to the fee simple. The present tenant for life (55) wishes to buy out the reversioners; and, with that view, inquires what he may properly pay for the interest of the youngest life, 48?

Your obedient servant,

February, 1865.

JUVENIS.